

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document has been received at the Patent Office.

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning Form PTO/SB/08 A & B filed on September 29, 2003, thus indicating that all of the references listed thereon have been considered.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-15 are all of the claims pending in the present application, and currently all of these claims stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claims 1-15:

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jantzen (U.S. Pat. No. 3,857,531) in view of Tsuyuki et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0028010 [hereafter "Tsuyuki"]). In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

Applicant notes that the Examiner relies on Jantzen for a majority of the claimed features while acknowledging that this reference does not disclose a braking member. Tsuyuki is cited for disclosing the braking member. The Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to a skilled artisan to combine these references, and that such a combination would teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner and submits that a skilled artisan would not have been motivated to make the combination proposed by the Examiner. Therefore, at least in view of the following discussion, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to the rejected claims.

Turning now to the references, Figure 4 of Jantzen (reproduced immediately below) discloses a reel cartridge having a reel 16 with a centrally positioned hub 22. An adapter ring 20 is inserted into the hub 22 and is seated on a hub spindle 28. The adapter ring 20 is engaged by latching fingers 50 of the hub spindle 28 (*see also*, col. 3, lines 23-28, of Jantzen). The adapter ring 20 and hub spindle 28 extend through a center of the reel 16 from an area below the reel to an area above the reel. Thus, the adapter ring 20 and the hub spindle 28 essentially block any portion of the reel 16 from extending into an area occupied by the adapter ring 20 and the hub spindle 28.

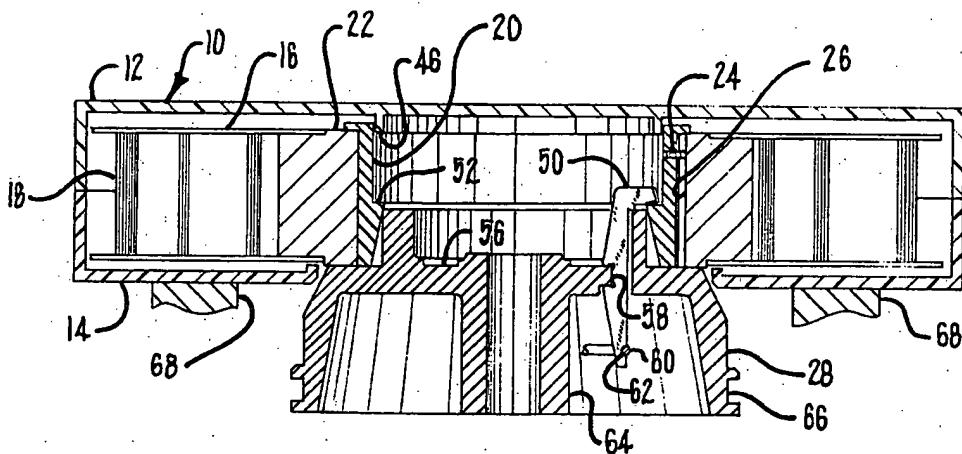
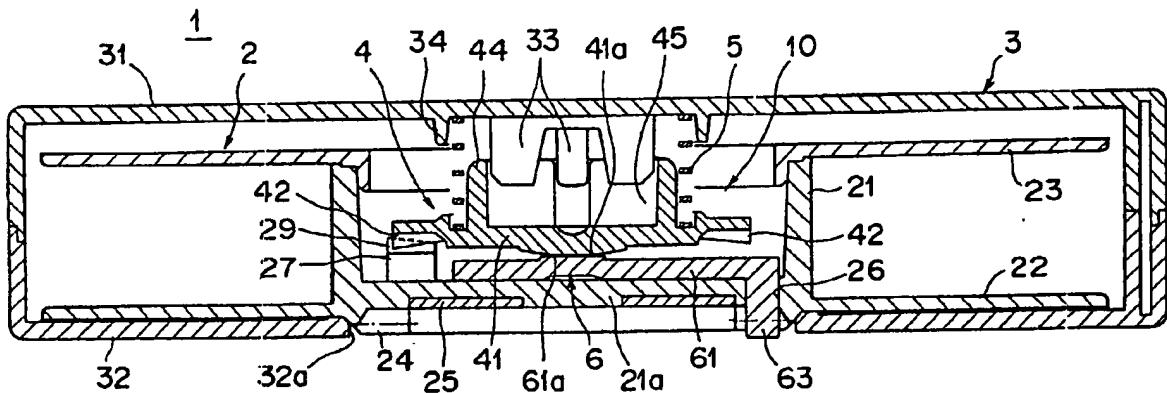


FIG - 4

Turning to Tsuyuki, the Examiner appears to be relying on the restraining member 4 to teach a braking member. Figure 1 of Tsuyuki (shown below) illustrates how the restraining member 4 interacts with a reel 2. The reel 2 is provided with flange portions 22 and 23 and is closed at a lower portion thereof by a bottom wall 21a (see paragraph 70). Locking protrusions 27 are erected from the bottom wall 21a and are formed with a locking tooth portion 29 (see paragraph 73). The locking tooth portion 29 is meshable with the restraining member 4 (see paragraph 74). Therefore, the braking feature of Tsuyuki utilizes the retaining member 4 and the locking protrusions 27 extending from the bottom wall 21a of the reel 2.



In view of the foregoing respective disclosures, Applicant submits that there is no motivation to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner. Namely, Applicant notes that to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), among other things, there must be a reasonable expectation of success in combining or modifying the references, and no such reasonable expectation exists in this case.

As can be seen in Figure 4 of Jantzen, the adapter ring 20 and the hub spindle 28 block the reel 16 from extending into an area occupied by the adapter ring 20 and the hub spindle 28.

Because of this, it is not possible to include the required locking protrusions 27 of Tsuyuki into the device of Jantzen. The adapter ring 20 and the hub spindle 28 would block the required bottom wall 21a of Tsuyuki from extending to its required position and would prevent the bottom wall 21a from providing the necessary locking protrusions 27. Without the locking protrusions 27, the retaining member 4 would not lock, resulting in an unsuccessful combination.

Therefore, Applicant submits that a skilled artisan would not be motivated to make the alleged combination, as the skilled artisan would recognize that there was no reasonable expectation of success in combining the references. Namely, it would be recognized that the adapter ring 20 and the hub spindle 28 would block the required bottom wall 21a of Tsuyuki from extending to its required position and would prevent the bottom wall 21a from providing the necessary locking protrusions 27.

Thus, a skilled artisan would not have been motivated to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner. However, if after reconsideration the Examiner continues to apply the above rejection to the claims, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner explain how the alleged combination would be successful, as required by MPEP §2143.02.

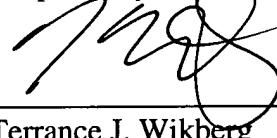
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that a skilled artisan would not be motivated to combine the above references, as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obvious with respect to the rejected claims, as required under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of the above claims.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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